for the Public Distribution System for manufacture and sale of bread at reduced rate and wheat and rice are also being allotted at rates lower than the Central Issue Prices (i) to those hostels in the country where more than two-thirds of the resident students belong to SC/ST/ OBC category and (ii) for emloyment generation programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, for manufacturing food products, such as bread, bun, papad, etc. by below-poverty-line families.

Estimated fall in the Foodgrains output

2062. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of estimated fall in the foodgrains output in 1993-94 against projection and how does the output compare with the 1992-93 production;

(b) what is the estimated gap between the demand and supply of foodgrains during 1994-95 stating the

(i) the food stock position at the end of 1994

(ii) the extent to which it is estimated to decline during the coming six months with distribution through PDS

(c) the foodgrains output projected for the year 1994-95; and

(d) the strategy formulated by Government to achieve the projected target?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The production of foodgrains in 1993-94 is estimated at 182.12 million tonnes against the target of 188.00 million tonnes. The production in 1992-93 is estimated at 179.48 million tonnes.

(b) As the demand for foodgrains depends on various factors such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income of people, prices of subsitutes, etc., precise estimates of demand for foodgrains in the country are not available. The stock position of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in the Central Pool as on 31st December, 1994 is estimated at 30.30 million tonnes. The offtake of wheat and rice from the Central Pool for distribution through PDS, open sale etc., during the period January—June, 1995 is estimated at 10 million tonnes. But during the same period, likely procurement of wheat and rice is estimated at 17 million tonnes i.e. 13 million tonnes of wheat and 4 millon tonnes of rice and thus, the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool is likely to increase to about 37.30 million tonnes unless the stocks are disposed through other means.

(c) The target of foodgrains production for the year 1994-95 was fixed at 189.00 million tonnes against which the latest estimates of production is 185 million tonnes.

(d) There is very limited scope for increasing area under different crops. The increase in production has to come only by increasing the productivity of crops from existing cultivated area for which the following strategies have been worked out;

i) Promoting cropping system approach for increasing the production and productivity of cereals crops as a whole against the individual crop approach.

ii) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance.

iii) Improving the resource base of the farmers and efficient water management and for timely and affective field operations.

iv) Propagation of improved crop production technologies through organisation of field demonstrations on farmer's

holdings and training of farmers and farm labourers including women.

v) Encouraging the use of organic manures which may provide an opportunity to recycle the farm wastes in a manner which will not only lower the cost of production but will sustain the agriculture production.

vi) Encouraging the use of soil ameliorants for improving soil health and soil productivity.

vii) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases in crops.

viii) More emphasis on the adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, timely irrigation, efficient use of fertilisers, need based plant protection measures and timely harvesting of crops.

ix) Promoting a sense of competition among farmers for maximisation of cereals productivity.

Tender for Import of Sugar

2063. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have floated a tender for import of sugar this year;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tenders have been floated at a time when the Indian companies which imported sugar during 1994 are trying to re-export that;

(d) if so, how much sugar has been re-exported during 1994 and uptil now giving the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which the decision to allow tender for import of sugar proved beneficial to the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for the Public Distribution System in the event of sugar production not coming up to the expected level, have directed State Trading Corporation Ltd. and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. to enter into forward contracts for purchase of about 5 lakh tonnes of imported sugar for July to September, 1995 deliveries. So far, a quantity of about 3.63 lakh tonnes has been contracted by State Trading Corporation Ltd. & Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. at an average price of US $ 428.25 per metric tonne C&FFO.

(c) and (d) When it came to the notice of the Government that certain traders were trying to re-export sugar imported by them under open General Licence, re-export of imported sugar was brought on the negative list of exports, subject to licensing. Subsequently, four applications received in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade for grant of export licences for re-export of imported sugar have been rejected.

(e) The sugar imported under forward contracts will be utilized for the Public Distribution System.